GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:257
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
INSTALLATION OF DEFIBRILLATOR
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cardiac deaths are caused by arrhythmia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to install automatic external defibrillator at airports, railway stations and other public places across the country to prevent such fatalities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, Abnormal Heart Rhythm (Arrhythmia) is the ultimate cause of cardiac deaths. Most cardiac arrests are due to rapid and/or chaotic activity of the heart (ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation); some are due to extreme slowing of the heart (bradychardia). The main underlying conditions of arrhythmia are atherosclerotic vascular disease/blockage, hypertension and inflammatory or degenerative conditions. Addictive substances, especially alcohol, cigarettes and recreational drugs can provoke arrhythmias. Various cardiac medications can also provoke arrhythmias. Efforts for primary prevention of conditions that predispose to arrhythmia are control of risk factors like energy dense diet, tobacco use, physical inactivity etc.

(c) & (d) No, Sir.